

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

002/017

JAN 27 2004

VPI/01-119 US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner : Janet L. Andres, Ph.D
Group Art Unit : 1646
Applicants : Pravin Chaturvedi, et al.
Application No.: 09/941,282
Filed : August 28, 2001
For : OPTIMAL COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS THEROF
FOR TREATING HCV INFECTIONS

OFFICIAL

Cambridge, Massachusetts
January 23, 2004

Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

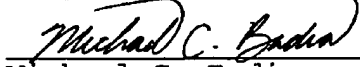
PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1)
FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1), applicants hereby petition for a two month extension of time to respond to the Examiner's Action dated August 26, 2003. With the extension, a response is due on or before January 26, 2004.

The Director is authorized to charge the requisite fee of \$420.00 that is due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(2) to Deposit Account No. 50-0725. A duplicate copy of this Petition is enclosed herewith.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael C. Badia
Reg. No. 51,424
Agent for Applicants
Nandakumar Govindaswamy
Ltd. Recognition
Attorney for Applicants

VERTEX PHARMACEUTICALS INCORPORATED
130 Waverly Street
Cambridge, MA 02139-4242
Tel.: (617)444-6467
Fax.: (617)444-6483